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BRAZIL.

Report from Rio de Janeiro—Inspection of vessels—Dysentery in Pernambuco—Plague, smallpox, and yellow fever.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart reports, March 16, as follows:

During the week ended March 12 I inspected and issued bills of health to the British steamship *Buffon* for New Orleans, with a cargo of coffee and with no passengers and no change of personnel of crew while here, and the British steamship *Thespis* for New York, with a cargo of coffee and with 1 first-class passenger and 40 steerage passengers from Santos and 2 first-class and 17 steerage passengers from this port. All steerage passengers were examined by me on board the ship, as was also the crew, in which there had been no change during the stay here. Both vessels lay in the open bay while here, and both had, previously to arrival at Santos, been disinfected at the Ilha Grande Quarantine Station. No other vessels sailed for the United States.

Dysentery in Pernambuco.

In regard to the outbreak of dysentery at Recife or Pernambuco, State of the same name, I can add but little to my last week's report. On March 8 I received a letter from the United States consul there, written on February 22, giving the following statistics of the epidemic: January 1 to 15, 1904, 7 deaths; from that date to January 31, 48 deaths, and from that date to February 15, 32 deaths.

A press dispatch from Pernambuco, of date of March 6, says: "During the last 15 days the mortality of Pernambuco has assumed a rate equivalent to 46 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants. Dysentery alone has caused no less than 88 deaths." Again on March 10: "All the daily journals speak of the increasing terror of dysentery in this city, the insanitary conditions of which are criticised most severely." And on March 13: "The santa casa has ordered the closing of the college of San Joaquin, where alone there are 25 cases of dysentery. The inhabitants of the city show themselves to be most apprehensive as regards the sanitary condition of the city."

Plague in Portalegre.

In the hospital of Santa Casa de Misericordia, Portalegre, there have been received more than 50 persons suffering from plague, of which number more than one-half have died. In the isolation section of this hospital there were, on February 25, 9 persons—plague patients—of which number 2 were dangerously ill, 2 were in a very grave condition, and the remainder were already convalescent. The 2 first mentioned had the septicæmic form of the disease, most fatal, and both had received subcutaneous injections of antipest serum, the treatment being given by Dr. Luiz Massan. The serum treatment is regularly applied in the cases treated here in this hospital, the most common cases being of the ganglionic (or bubonic) form, although many cases of the pneumonic form have been received here, also.